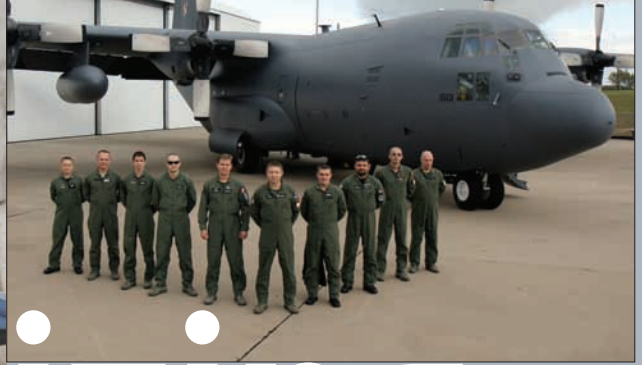
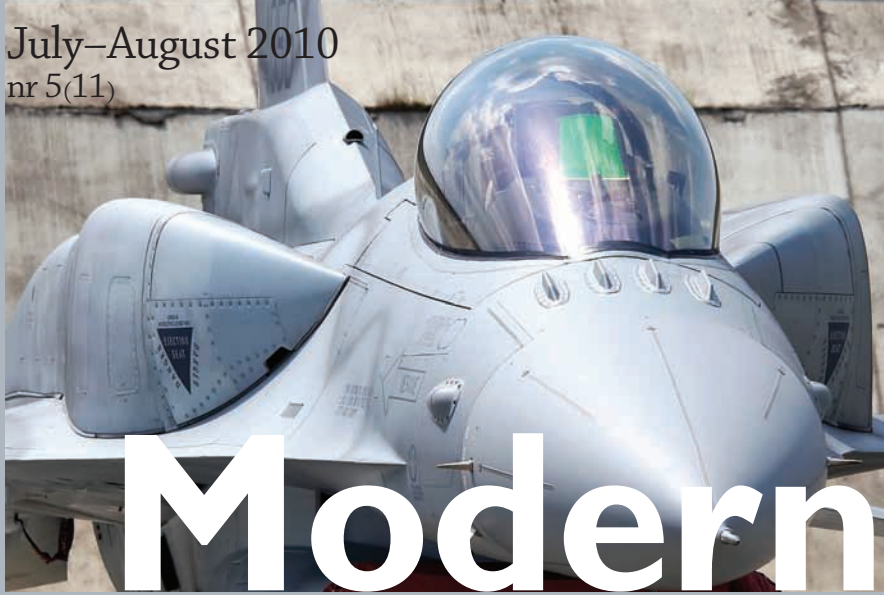


BizPoland

magazine

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Modernizing the Military



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Modernizing the Military

Just 10 years after joining the NATO alliance, Poland's military is flying a fleet of F-16s, moving troops and heavy equipment with C130s, jumping out of W3 Sokol helicopters alongside Canadian paratroopers, and rotating MIM-104 Patriot missile defense systems in and out of northern Poland.

American defense contractors have already won billion-dollar deals, and Poland's allies see big potential in the country's growing military budget and strong embrace of the NATO alliance.

While the imminent tender from the Ministry of Defense with a budget of about 1.5 billion pln to buy 16 advanced aircraft trainers (LIFT) will be the most hotly-contested next deal, Poland's NATO membership means more ties that bind it to the alliance. High-profile F16s and Patriot missile batteries may "steal the headlines" but the integration and relationship-building between Poland and NATO is reaching into all cor-

ners of the military, including army, navy, air defense and special forces. American generals have flown in on C130s to celebrate the growing "Sister Wing" relationship, and lower-ranking officers are training on Canadian soil.

The Ministry of Defense, which has seen its annual budget grow from 2001's 15 billion pln to 25.7 billion pln in 2010, is embracing the opportunity to modernize its aircraft and artillery, and bolster training

*"We are engaged
in supporting
Polish forces in
all areas",*

*said US Air Force
Lt. Colonel Scott Wallace.*

Poland in NATO

Poland participates in all the most important NATO operations: in Afghanistan (I SAF), Kosovo (K FOR), Iraq (training mission N TM-I) and in the Mediterranean Sea (Active Endeavour).

Poland participates in many transformation initiatives such as NATO Response Force (NRF), concerning transport aircraft C-17 or special forces. In Bydgoszcz there is Joint Forces Training Centre, an important element of NATO command structure.

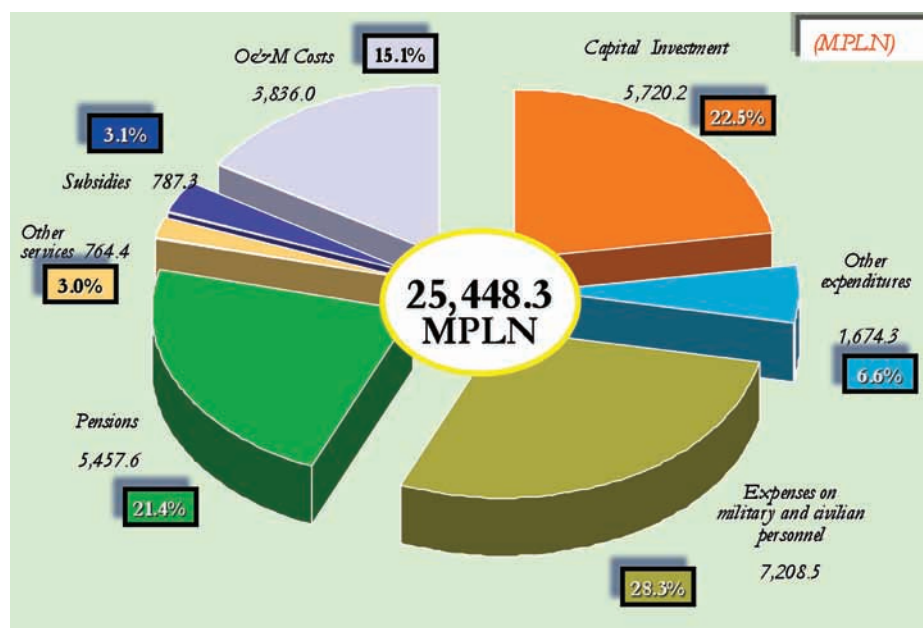
Decisions made during NATO summits in Prague (2002), Istanbul (2004) and Riga (2006) were further basic incentives for development of military capabilities. A ctivity in Afghanistan confirmed the necessity for continuing the changes.

of military personnel. Poland's military budget consumes about 1.95% of annual GDP. Another 414 million pln of support comes from NATO and the United States as direct grants. According to the Ministry of Defense, Poland spends \$222 per capita on defense, versus the average for a European NATO member of \$546 per capita. Approximately 2600 soldiers are in Afghanistan now, out of a total military force of 110,000.

Poland has continued to seek closer cooperation, and took another step with the U.S. military with the joint "Declaration of Strategic Cooperation" in August 2008, signed by then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski. The declaration states more clearly that the U.S. is committed to the defense of Poland and enhancing Poland's own defensive capabilities. Backed up by a commitment to station U.S. troops and missile defense systems on Polish soil, the declaration was viewed as "provocative" by Russia.

The statement was backed by financial and military commitments and contributions from the US to Poland, including a grant by President George W. Bush of 5 C130 Hercules transport aircraft. Produced and upgraded by Lockheed, the first C130 arrived in spring 2009, and the second in spring 2010, said U.S. Air Force Captain

Structure of MoND Budget for 2010



John Szczepanski, who is based at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. The third is due to be delivered in August. The C 130s are stationed at Powidz air base about 50 km east of Poland.

The U.S. State Department also gave a direct grant of \$47 million (under the Foreign Military Financing Program) in 2010 for the purchase of U.S.-produced equipment and training. "Poland is among the top beneficiaries in Europe of such grants", said Szczepanski.

Another \$2.1 million grant supports training of Polish officers in the U.S., under the "International Military Education Training Program". These officers train regularly at elite American war colleges. "Lots of the current leadership of Polish officers has been educated in the United States", said Szczepanski, who is a liaison between the U.S. government and Polish government for issues related to the C 130 program.

National Guard

Further integration and cooperation is at the National Guard level. The U.S.'s National Guard, which is usually a reserve force, has been mobilized extensively for combat action first in Iraq and now in Afghanistan. The National Guards, which are state-based military organizations, have been paired up with Polish forces in live combat. For example, the Illinois National Guard has been deployed with Polish ground forces in Afghanistan, said Szczepanski. And in Peoria, Illinois, home base to a fleet of C 130s, 25 personnel have spent time working alongside their Polish colleagues at Poland's C130 base in Powidz. (See side story)

"Special Opps"

In spring 2009, Defense Minister Klich signed a soft cooperation agreement that has led to increased cooperation between U.S. Special Operations forces, like the US Navy's elite SEAL units and the Army's special forces, and Polish special forces. In addition to the GROM special forces, the Polish navy operates special forces units called Formoza.

VIP Aircraft fleet tender

A direct result of the catastrophic crash in Smolensk in April - which killed 96 top officials including six of Poland's military leadership - is that the government intends to replace its "VIP fleet" in the coming year. The tender will likely call for 2-3 aircraft, and will be decided by the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a "stop-gap" measure, the government has leased two air-

Special Forces Command:

The Special Forces Command (Dowództwo Wojsk Specjalnych) headquartered in Krakow was established in January 2007. Directly subordinate to the chief of the General Staff, it is composed of special unit "GROM", the 1st Special Regiment from Lubliniec, and Naval Group "Formoza".

1st Special Regiment from Lubliniec

1st Special Regiment from Lubliniec refers with its traditions to the history of the 2nd Commando Battalion of the Special Motorized Battalion, "Parasol" and "Zoska" Sabotage Battalions. Typical train-

ing activities in the 1st Commando Regiment are: group landing from a helicopter, reconnaissance activities, ambushes, attack and retreat, camouflage, frogmen attack and parachuting, unarmed and armed combat, and 40-kilometer marches in full gear. The unit aims to become fully professional. Soldiers of the 1st Regiment are also trained in activities behind the front line, espionage data collection, reconnaissance, defensive raids and hostage rescue.

Candidates first go through basic training and then a 3-month school for young specialists. Later 6-person special groups are created.

GROM is a formation that, depending on needs, can perform typical reconnaissance and sabotage tasks. Its members also have skills useful in complex rescue operations aimed at rescuing hostages from terrorists. They are also prepared for marine operations (on vessels and drilling rigs). These operations are considered to be the most difficult.

They operate in four-person teams. Each soldier is a professional in the field of special operations. They undergo arduous training in parachuting and diving.

Candidates applying to serve in the GROM have to pass psychological and endurance tests and the so-called truth test, i.e. exhausting physically and psychologi-



cally field tests during which the weakest fail. GROM soldiers train together with the best special units in the world. As specialists they are classified on a par with the American Delta Force or British SAS. Marine Special Operations Unit - "Formoza" Sea special operations section - "Formoza" was founded in 1974 as the navy divers' research group established to draw up a concept for the organisation and formation of a special division of naval frogmen. Its first commander was a retired certified commander, Józef Rembisz. The tasks and name of the group have changed several times. Initially, it operated as an independent unit, to be subordinated after fifteen years to the commander of the Group of Reconnaissance Ships constituting a part of the 3rd Flotilla of Ships in Gdynia. In January 2008 the group came under subordination of Special Forces Command.

"Formoza" is designed to run special operations in times of peace, crisis and war. Its basic tasks include carrying out operations at sea, under water and in on-shore facilities. ■

GROM

A special unit known as the Operational-Manoeuvre Response Group was founded on July 13, 1990, organized according to the best American and British models. In 1994 it participated in the mission of the allied forces on Haiti as well as in search of the war criminals on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

GROM is a formation that, depending on needs, can perform typical reconnaissance

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Modernizing the Military

Continued from page 9

craft from state-owned LOT Airlines. Sources told BizPoland that it is unclear - and will remain so until the tender is announced - whether the government will buy aircraft from a military contractor or civilian con-

Minister of National Defense Bogdan Klich

Bogdan KLICH was born on 8 May 1960 in Kraków. A member of the European Parliament, representing Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats. Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with Belarus. Expert on foreign policy and international security. Advisor to the Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Poland with the European (1998-1999). Co-author of Poland's negotiations standpoint. Deputy Minister of Defense (1999-2000), responsible for Poland's cooperation with NATO. Founder and President of the Institute for Strategic Studies in Kraków. Member of International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. Initiator of widening Poland's military co-operation with Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine. Deputy of Sejm of the Republic of Poland (2001-2004). Vice-Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee and member of National Defence Committee. Member of central and regional authorities of Civic Platform. Polish observer to the European Parliament (2003-2004). Lecturer in the Department of European Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Author of over twenty publications concerning foreign policy and international security. Physician, graduated from Kraków Medical Academy. Masters in the History of Art, Jagiellonian University. In the seventies he co-operated with the democratic opposition. Founder of the Independent Students Association at Medical Academy. During martial law he was interned in Załęże near Rzeszów, arrested and judged by Military Court for "distributing antisocialist materials". He speaks English and French. ■

tractor. In both cases, the aircraft will be adapted to the specific requests of the government.

F16s and Offsets

The single biggest contract in Poland's military history was the purchase in 2003 of 48 F-16s fighter aircraft from Lockheed Martin for \$3.5 billion. As is often the case with such large military contracts, incentives were significant. The U.S. Congress passed a law to guaranty the financial commitments of Poland, and an "offset" program was put in place to encourage job creation and technology transfers to Poland. For example, the F16 engines were assembled in Rzeszow at Pratt & Whitney's plant. "92% of our commitments under the initial contract have been delivered", said US Air Force Lt. Colonel Scott Wallace.

The initial 10-year period contract - offering the "complete package" of support for the F16s - ends in 2013, at which time the Polish government must "make their own solutions to sustain the F16 program", said Wallace. The government could continue with the "complete package" or look for alternative suppliers, within the European Union, NATO, or amongst private contractors.

Lead In Fighter Trainer = LIFT tender

The next major military tender drawing attention of international military contractors is the Ministry of Defense's plan to buy 16 fighter training aircraft. This is a natural - and some say much belated - step in securing proper training resources for Polish pilots flying F16s. These pilots have mostly been trained to fly F16s at the base of the 162 Division of the National Guard Wing in Tucson, Arizona. (The first Polish pilots to receive F16 training certificates were at the base were Lt. Col Roscislaw Stepaniuk, Col. Zbigniew Zawada and Lt. Col. Dariusz Malinowski.)

SOFA deal on troop deployment terms

Poland and the United States signed in December 2009 a status of forces agreement (SOFA) laying out the conditions for the deployment of U.S. troops on Polish soil.

It was signed in Warsaw by Ellen Tauscher, under secretary of state for arms control and international security, and Polish Deputy Defense Minister Stanislaw Komorowski.

According to the Status of Forces Agreement, U.S. troops will service Patriot missiles that are to be integrated into Poland's national security system.

The first troop rotation to service the Patriot missile system is expected to arrive in Poland by the end of March 2010.

In September, U.S. President Barack Obama shelved the previous administration's plans to place 10 long-range ground-based interceptor missiles in Poland and a fixed-site radar station in the Czech Republic.

Due to a reassessment of the threat from Iran, Washington announced a new scheme for a more flexible system, with a combination of land and sea-based interceptors based on the Standard Missile interceptor, SM-3.

Under the new plan, the U.S. would place ship-based SM-3s in the North and Mediterranean seas in 2011, and mobile land-based SM-3s in Central Europe by 2015.

In contrast to the previous system which was strongly opposed by Russia, the new multidirectional radars and missiles would not be able to penetrate deep into Russia's territory. However, Russian officials have voiced concerns over the new plans as well. ■





The LIFT tender, likely to be officially announced in the coming weeks, will have a budget of about 1.5 billion pln to buy 16 aircraft, including all systems and support mechanisms. While the Polish Air Force will continue to train with Russian-made MIGs, the newer training aircraft will provide broader versatility.

According to David Burgess, who heads up BAE Systems Poland offices, the LIFT program is a priority for Defense Minister Klich. The Ministry has stated publicly that it wants to have the aircraft delivered in 2013.

BAE Systems, which is already the single biggest supplier of support equipment for the Polish military, is keen to win the LIFT business, after losing out to Lockheed Martin's F16s in 2003. BAE's Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) has sold over 900 fighters to 18 air forces around the world, including recent sales to India and South Africa. The Hawk is a "complex bit of kit", said Burgess, who was in the British Army for more than 20 years, working in the Army's procurement divisions. He said that the Hawk is a more versatile aircraft that can be used for training for multiple aircraft and has lower annual operating costs than competitors.

Competition for Poland's LIFT tender will be fierce, said Adam Bergmann, who served as director of Lockheed's F-16 program in Poland for five years. Major competitors will be the T-50, which was developed in partnership between Lockheed Martin and Korean Aerospace Industries; Czech-made L159s produced by Aero Vodochody and used mostly by the Czech Air Force; modernised Hawks by Finnish military contractor Patria, which already has a strong presence in Poland's military production sector; and the M-346, manufactured by Italian Alenia Aermacchi and which participated in the June air show in Deblin.

On the subsequent pages, we take a deeper look at some of the major existing military cooperation between NATO countries and Poland, including the F16 fighter aircraft, C130 transport aircraft, Patriot air defense missiles, and the most recent training exercises between Canadian paratroopers and Poland's 6th Airborne Assault battalion.

Multinational Exercises in the Baltic - BALTOPS 2010

This year's largest naval Partnership for Peace exercise occurred in June in the Baltic Sea. Fourteen countries dedicated their forces to participate in BALTOPS 2010. Crews of ships, planes and helicopters conducted and cooperated within multinational peacekeeping operation.

The Polish Navy was the host of the first (in-port) stage of BALTOPS 2010. On Friday, 4th of June, the international armada of warships came to Gdynia. The main (sea) phase of the exercise began on 7th June and lasted two weeks.



BALTOPS 2010 is the multinational exercise for cooperation between ships, airplanes and helicopters, as well as boundary components, logistics and command units of 14 countries: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, USA and the UK. The Polish Navy operated with anti-submarine corvette ORP "Kaszub", submarine ORP 'Kondor', minesweepers ORP 'Resko', ORP 'Wicko' and ORP 'Necko', two anti-submarine helicopters Mi-14PL, two patrolling-reconnaissance

aircrafts, as well as command posts. NATO 'Anti-Mine Shield' - SNMCMG1 with Polish command ship ORP 'Konradmiral Xawery Czernicki' also took part in the exercises.

Polish forces participating in the exercise BALTOPS 2010 mainly performed tasks related to the safety of sea lanes of communication. The Anti-Submarine Corvette ORP 'Kaszub' and Mi-14 PL helicopters protected maritime forces against the submarine's activity. Patrolling-reconnaissance aircrafts carried out monitoring of sensitive waters, while the minesweepers were responsible for protecting the main forces against sea mines. The Polish submarine ORP 'Kondor' monitored the maritime shipping lanes.

Exercise BALTOPS 2010 is based on a fictitious scenario involving fictitious countries and events. According to its objectives, the region comes into a crisis resulting from the activities of local paramilitary organizations. A UN resolution will set up peacekeeping forces. Units participating in BALTOPS faced also piracy acts threatening the transport units. Their main task was to ensure the safety of sea lanes of communication, stability and peace in the region.

BALTOPS is an annual, international sea exercise designed to enhance interoperability of naval forces of the Partnership for Peace in the Baltic Sea region. The scenario assumes the use of NATO forces in response to international crises. During the sea-phase, ships conducted a typical peacekeeping operation including embargo operations and sea blockades in the designated areas, anti-contraband and anti-terrorism at sea.



Poland to take delivery of 3rd C130 in August

In August, the next C130 Hercules aircraft arrives in Poland, the third of five C130s granted to the Polish military from the United States. Their arrival marks a turning point in the rapidly modernizing Polish military.

“The Polish military has a growing ability to move large equipment on its own, and will soon be able to operate these on their own national missions”, said Captain John Szczepanski of the U.S. Air Force, stationed in the American Embassy in Warsaw. Szczepanski is a liaison between the US and the Polish government for issues related to the C130 program.

“Before, Polish troops were transported to Afghanistan by US C130s”, said Szczepanski.

The first of the C130s arrived in spring 2009, and the staged delivery is all part of the plan to build up a C130 support infrastructure in Poland. The C130s were previously based in the U.S., and then received systems and avio-



nic updates and modifications before being delivered to Powidz, where they will be based with the Polish 3rd Airlift Wing.

Military staff working on the C130 at Powidz include 25 fliers and 50 ground personnel, all of whom have been trained in the U.S. at either Little Rock, Arkansas or Nashville, Tennessee.

As part of the process of building tighter relations between the Polish and American military, a one-star general flew in from Rammstein air base in Germany in late June, to commemorate the emerging “Sister Wing” relationship between the American C130 base at Rammstein and the Powidz C130 base.

Illinois Air National Guard visited Polish Air Base to assist C-130 mission

Members of the 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria, Illinois traveled in 2009 to the 33 Air Base in Powidz as part of the Illinois Air National Guard's role in the Illinois State Partnership Program. The visit was part of an endeavor by National Guard units and central European military forces to create information exchange and familiarization with western based military assets. The arrival of the 182nd Wing marked the beginning of a week long diplomatic mission to help the Polish Air Force's efforts to integrate the new C-130 mission.

“We are really glad to have you here. To have the opportunity to ask you questions,” said Lt. Col. Mitzy Gaudyn, 14 Airlift Squadron Commander, during his initial introductions to the 169th Airlift Squadron members.

The Polish Air Force received its first C-130 E model in March 2009. They are slated to receive 4 additional E models. To begin creating the squadron, the Polish Air Force began preparing and training personnel in 2007.

“Creation of the squadron is a process,” said Gaudyn. “The first purpose is to give supplies to troops, such as in Afghanistan.”

“Ultimately they want to deploy C-130s to the NATO mission in Afghanistan,” said Col. Cory Reid, 182nd Mission Support Group Commander, who helped liaise the mission to Poland. “Our mission is to help assist them to become fully operational to NATO standards.”

Members of the 182nd Airlift Wing toured facilities and exchanged information with their Polish counterparts through task demonstrations, document sharing and hands-on experiences.

“Here we have a military-to-military program that brings experience and knowledge to the Polish military. Peoria brings experience and the knowledge of the C-130 aircraft system that is new to the Polish Air Force”, said Chief Tom Hergenrother, Command Chief of the 183rd Fighter Wing.

Hergenrother, who has worked in numerous missions to assist Polish and American military exchanges, was deployed to help coordinate resources and information sharing,

and said the event was an important part of building NATO relationships.

The 182nd has been continuously involved through the Polish Air Force's acquisition of the C-130, as Poland is the Illinois National Guard's sister unit in the State Partnership Program that began in 1993. The purpose of the State Partnership Program is to link the National Guard states and territories with partner countries to foster mutual interests and establish long-term relationships across all levels of society. The State Partnership Program with Poland was one of the first three State Partnership Program relationships initiated between the National Guard and central European countries.

Illinois SPP with Poland has allowed hundreds of Illinois National Guard members to participate in exchanges with Polish forces leading to cooperative efforts with Polish forces in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Along with the C-130 information exchange, the Illinois National Guard assisted in a similar program involving F-16s.

Patriot missile batteries

In late June, approximately 100 US Army personnel from the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery packed their bags - and 37 train cars of equipment, including their 6 Patriot missiles with associated radar - and left Morąg via Gdansk on the way back to their bases in Kaiserslautern, Germany. This was the first of a series of 30-day rotations of U.S. military personnel, who are shipping in-and-out of Poland every quarter as an immediate step before establishing a permanent Patriot missile defense battery in 2012.

Each quarter, "about 100 folks come in for air defense training, including logistics and medical personnel", said Daniel Herrigstad, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army based in Germany. During the 30-day rotations, the personnel train about 40 Polish air-defense and land-defense officers. "And they show us their systems too", said Lt Colonel Herrigstad. "We do lots of hands-on training for the Patriots, including missile warhead management", he said, adding that "we do not have security arrangements for live missiles right now".

The battalion is led by Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Kevin Sioka and supported by Major Lisa T. Reyes, Battalion Operations officer.

Morąg, located less than 100 km from Gdansk in the direction of the Mazury lakes district, is home to the 16th Mechanized Battalion of the Polish Land Forces. At the 26th May ceremony marking the first arrival of Patriots and US troops to Morąg, Defense Minister Bogdan Klich said "deployment of the "Patriot" battery is an important step, not because of the equipment - as this one battery is like one swallow that does not make a summer - but because of the people - US troops that will operate this battery", Klich added.

Speaking in Morąg, U.S. Ambassador Feinstein said, "This is an important day. Important, not just because it is long anticipated, but important because of what we see here today - a battery of U.S. soldiers working alongside their Polish counterparts on Polish soil, cooperating as established allies.

Symbolic during the ceremony was the presence of the wife and son of the late vice mi-

nister Stanisław Komorowski who was one of the chief contributors to the SOFA agreement signed between Poland and the USA on 11th December 2009 that regulates the status of the US troops deployment on Polish soil.

The Patriot systems have a "lower umbrella", said Herrigstad, saying they have a short range, unlike the Aegis ground-based, long-range missiles, which will are not currently planned to be based in Poland. ■



Canadian paratroopers earn Polish "Wings"



Over a 16-day period in mid-June, Canadian paratroopers conducted joint exercises with the Polish 6th Air Assault Brigade in Krakow. The exercises are part of ongoing exchanges between Canada and Poland to further integrate Polish forces into the NATO alliance. While the military training helped build familiarity with each other's unique methods, the building of camaraderie and relationships between the paratroopers is equally important, said Canadian Eric Richard, Deputy Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor. "We get along well;

lots of relationship-building. I think it's partially because both Poland and Canada are "middle powers" and so see eye-to-eye on some things", said Richard.

His paratroopers are trained to jump out of C130 Hercules aircraft, so the Krakow exercises involving jumps from W3 Sokol helicopters presented new challenges. "One of the biggest differences is that we are used to having specialist riggers fold our 'chutes for us, whereas here in Poland the paratrooper folds his own chute", said Kelsey Barnes, Captain, Operations Officer.

Joint exercises included water-jumps in the area of Bielsko-Biała, and excursions to Torun and the nearby artillery training and air assault brigade.

At the end of the 16-day period, the Canadians were awarded Polish "wings", having completed the joint exercises using all Polish aircraft and parachutes. General Andrzej Knap, Commander of the 6th Airborne Assault Brigade, pinned wings on the Canadians at a final ceremony.

The Canadians also gained familiarity with Polish firearms at a military shooting range just outside Krakow. "Some of their equipment, like pistols, are better than ours", said one Canadian soldier, who inspected their weapons before live-shooting at the military range.

In the fall, Polish paratroopers will be in Canada, learning to jump from C130 Hercules, and gaining familiarity with the Canadian paratroopers techniques and equipment. The exercises will part of a NATO interoperational training exercise, including Germans, Poles, Americans, and Canadians.

For most of the Canadians, it was their first trip to Poland. "I'll be coming back for sure", said one private, who was giddy about the girls in Krakow's Old Town square. ■

Next contract for F-16s on horizon

The year 2013 will mark the 10-year anniversary of Poland's purchase of 48 F-16 fighter jets, a major step in Poland's drive to modernize its air defense capabilities. It also marks the end of a 10-year contract with Lockheed Martin to provide all of the support and sustainment systems necessary to maintain the fleet of F-16s.

"The initial period of the contract ends around 2013, then they will have to make decisions about their own solutions to sustain the F-16 program", said Lt. Colonel Scott Wallace of the U.S. Air Force.

Poland will not likely buy the "complete package" as the country did in the initial 2003 contract. The "complete package" means the full range of maintenance, equipment, training, and repairs. As part of the initial F-16 purchase, more than 50 Polish airmen have trained in the U.S. at the International F-16 Training Center in Tucson, Arizona.

The Polish Air Force will likely continue to contract with Lockheed Martin for large key support systems, but it is now better posi-

The Polish Air Force operates 36 single seat F-16C aircraft and 12 dual seat F-16D aircraft. Two of the F-16 squadrons are based at the Krzesiny airbase close to Poznan, and one F-16 squadron is based at the Łask airbase just outside of Łódź. As part of the ongoing sustainment operations, a Polish air force officer is stationed at the Hill Air Force close to Salt Lake City in Utah.

Wallace said that Poland now has an F-16 support infrastructure, and since the initial training periods have passed, the level of mutual cooperation and learning is greater.

"The U.S. Air Force continues with F-16 training, to enhance NATO interoperability", said Wallace.



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tioned to buy some support from other vendors. This modular approach is consistent with the development of the F-16 program in other countries.

"NATO has F-16s, and could offer support, or they might also find private contractors", said Wallace, adding that U.S. contractors could continue to offer "sustainment solutions".

Wallace is the liaison officer for the F-16 program. "If the Polish government wants to buy U.S. systems, they work through our office", said Wallace. "We are the in-country face of the military sales - when Poles have a question or issue, they call us".

The "sustainment" contract is the next big military deal related to Poland's F-16 program, and would likely be for a period of three years.

As part of this ongoing effort, three F-16s from the Spangdahlem base in Germany participated in a training event in May at the Łask air field for one week. These U.S. F-16s took part with four Polish F-16 crews, in joint exercises aimed at improving their coordination and cooperation. The Polish "Hawks" of the 32nd Tactical Air Base performed Basic Fighter Maneuvers consisting of training defensive and offensive tactics in a dogfight against a single opponent (one-on-one), Air Combat Maneuvers consisting of joint defence and attack maneuvers executed by a pair of aircraft (two versus one) as well as Tactical Interceptions. Four different missions - in various group configurations - were carried out for each day of the exercise. ■